

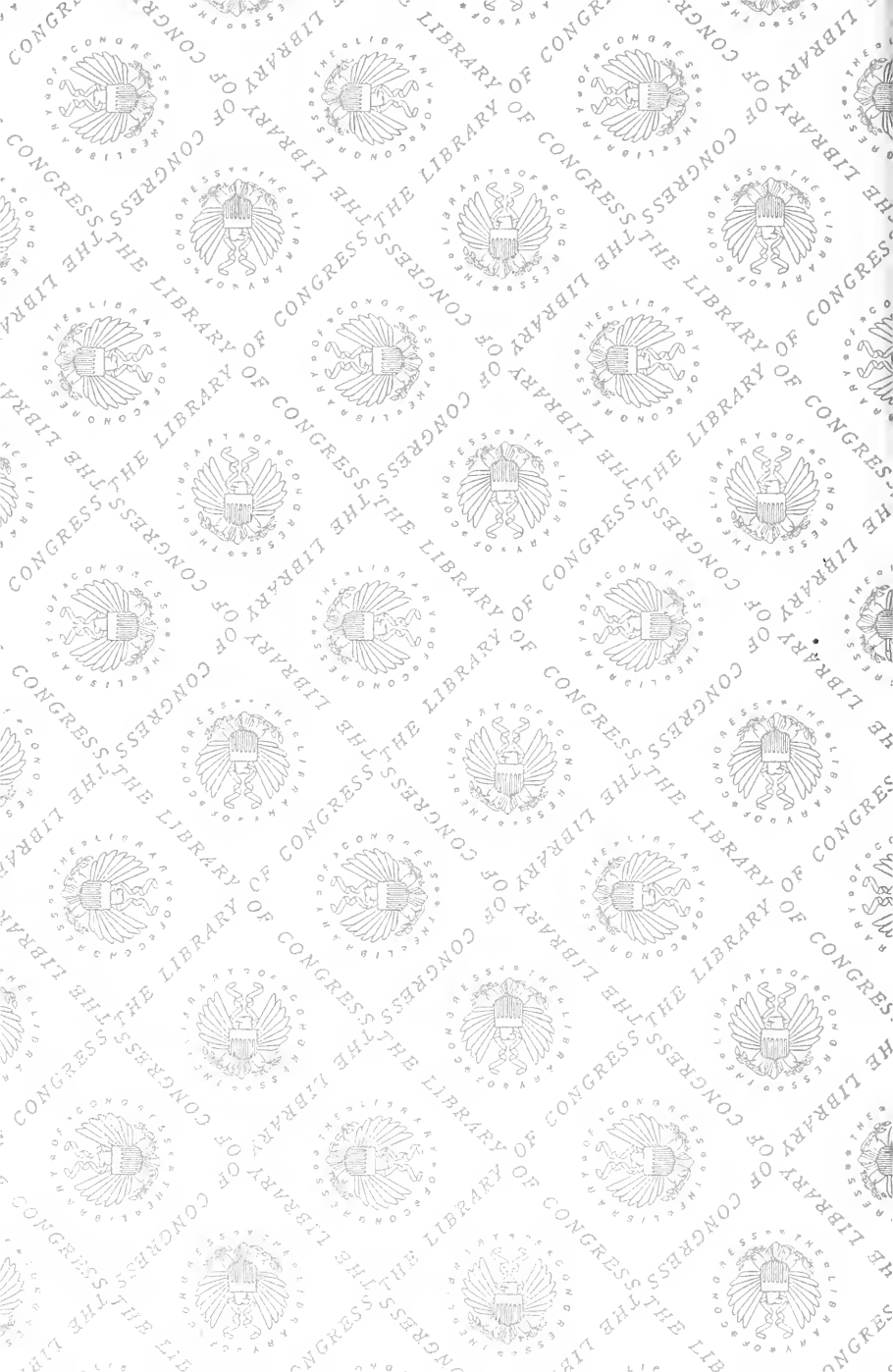
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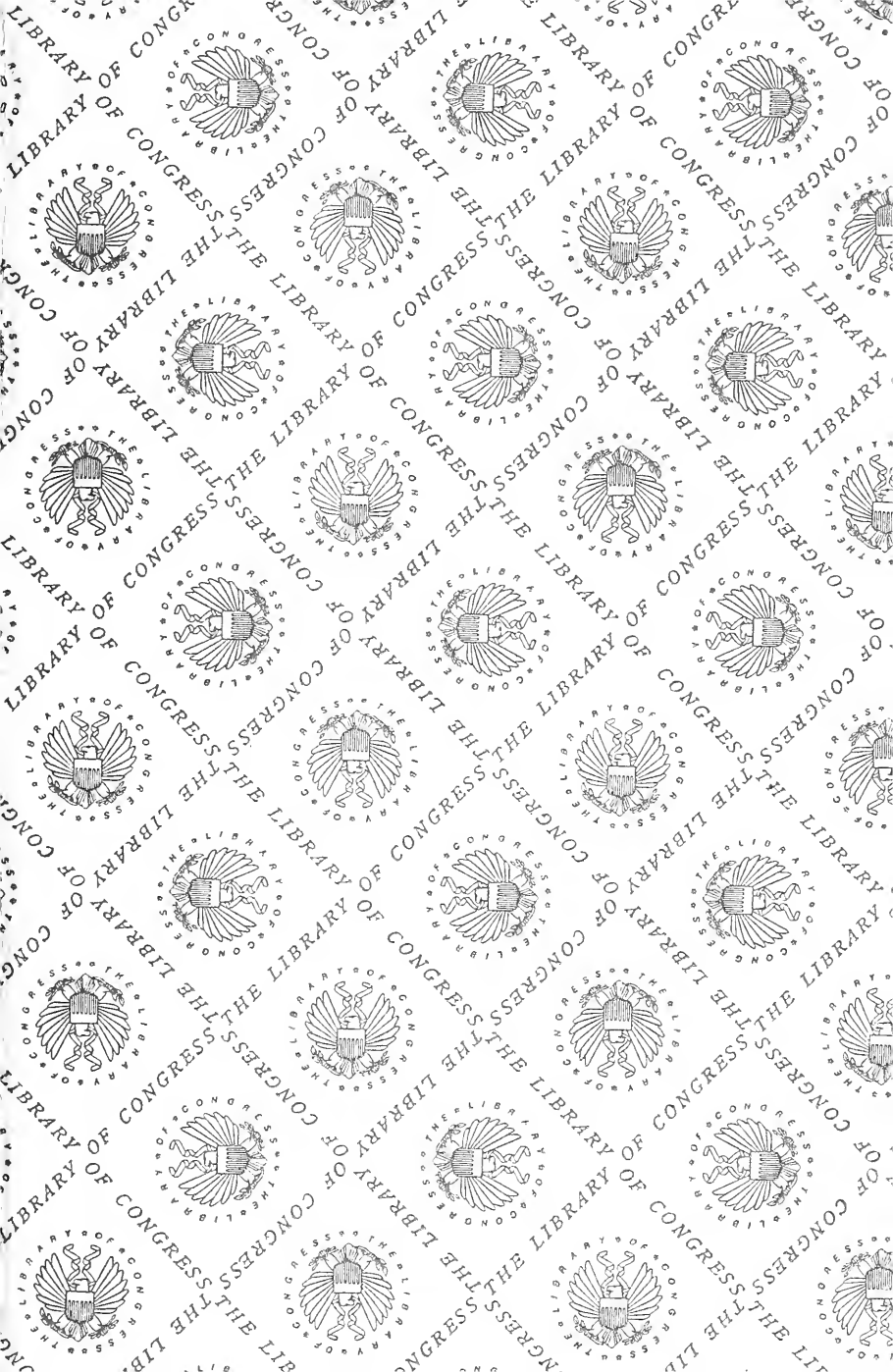
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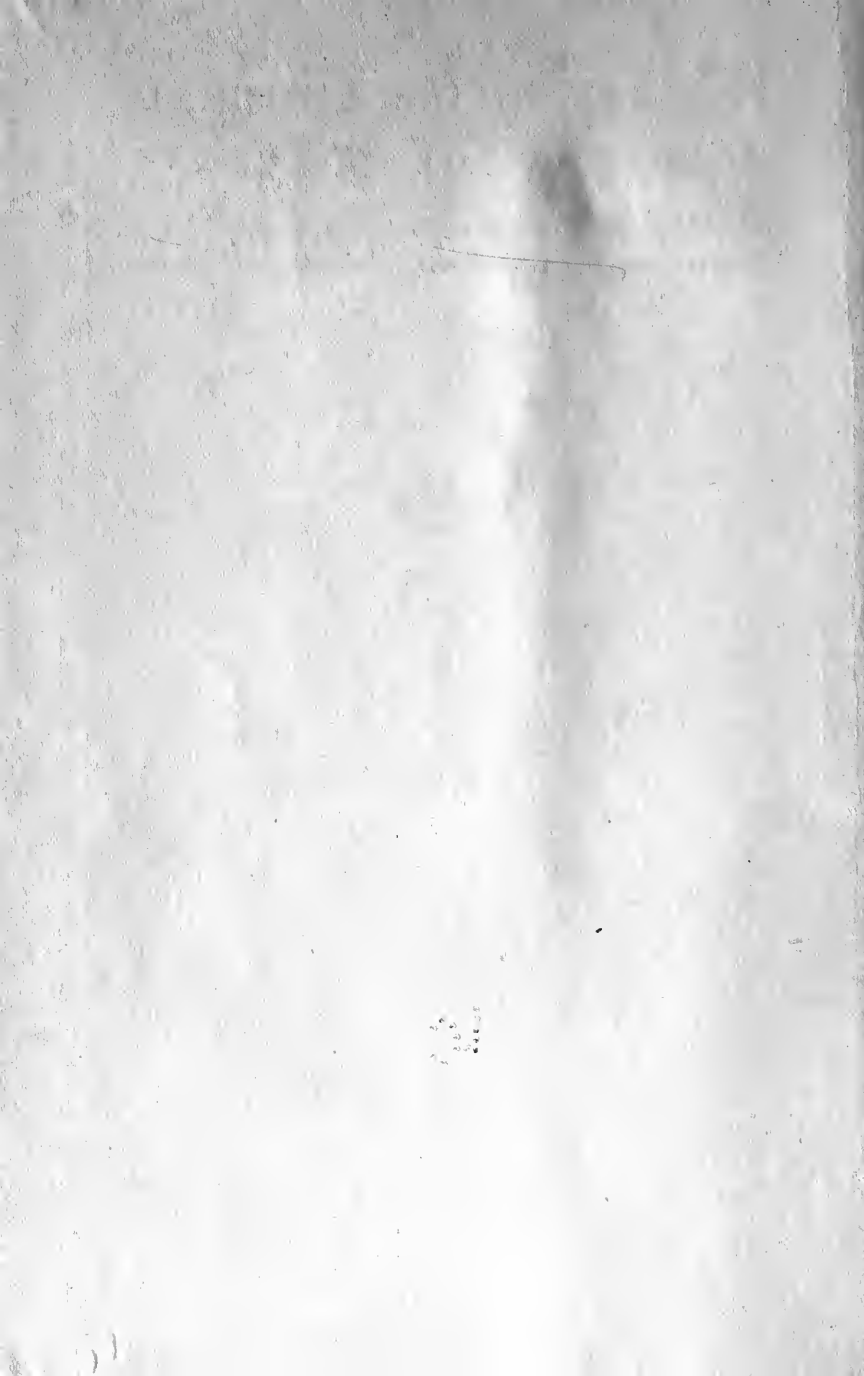




History of the Chicago Association of Collegiate Alumnae



1888-1917



History of the Chicago Association of Collegiate Alumnae—*By Marion Talbot.*



1888-1917

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The Committee appointed to prepare a history of the early years of the Branch presented its report in outline at a meeting held on January 19, 1918. Since that time the outline has been partially filled in and is now presented as a permanent record of a term of years rich in educational service.

A scrutiny of the records indicates that a college training does not necessarily result in making a young woman an archivist. The battered, but precious, Secretary's books contain slight evidence that the officers of the organization realized that in years to come their actions would be studied in an attempt to make an historical survey of the methods followed and the results achieved by the Branch. The minutes of one annual meeting are entirely missing; memorials ordered to be entered upon the minutes do not so appear; pledges to raise funds are voted without any indication of the final result; the phrase, "The recommendations of the committee were adopted," frequently appears without any indication of their content. There are no detailed financial records, but only here and there a statement as to an expenditure or a balance in the treasury. The significance of such a minute as, "It was moved and seconded and carried that a vote of thanks be tendered Mrs. Helmer for her herculean efforts," can easily be interpreted with the help of the memory of those who were conversant with Mrs. Helmer's generous and self-sacrificing efforts in behalf of the Branch during a long period of years, but many similar records would have to pass without comment from lack of information as to their meaning. In making this confession of the unbusinesslike methods of recording the doings of the Branch, the Committee surmises that this Branch is not the only offender. In case it must bear this burden alone, it has, as offset, the great distinction of counting as members of its present Historical Committee the two women who nearly thirty years ago were the leaders in organizing the Branch and who nurtured it with care and wisdom during its early years, Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer and Mrs. Gertrude B. Blackwelder.

MARION TALBOT,
Chairman.

MAR 5 1921

HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE ALUMNAE

In December, 1887, the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae appointed a committee to confer with a committee to be appointed by the Association of Collegiate Alumnae concerning the advisability and basis of union.

In October, 1888, Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, Mrs. Helen Hiscock Backus, and Miss Marion Talbot, representing the A. C. A., and Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer, representing the Western A. C. A., agreed upon a basis of union to take effect in October, 1889, which was later adopted by both organizations. The Western A. C. A. disbanded and the members residing in Illinois assembled in May, 1889, on the call of Mrs. Bessie Bradwell Helmer, State Director for Illinois, and organized the Chicago A. C. A., which thereby became the eighth branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae.

The fabric of the history of the Branch is made up of a body of threads into which is woven the pattern which shows from time to time the influence of the leaders or the compelling power of local issues.

Throughout the whole period, 1889-1917, there is a continuous record of discussions and actions relating to the following matters:

1. Place of meeting.
2. Character of meetings.
3. Methods of increasing membership.
4. Means of securing funds and filling a depleted treasury.
5. Changes in the Constitution.
6. Relations to the National Association.
7. Development of social features.
8. Means of carrying on effective educational work.
9. Form of publications.
10. Arrangements for meetings of the National Association.
11. Methods of interesting women graduating from colleges in the Association.
12. Co-operation with the committees of the Association and its Branches in special lines of work.

The maintenance of the fellowships was a constant subject of discussion and effort. This was undoubtedly due, in large measure, to the facts that the Branch inherited from

the Western A. C. A., a peculiar obligation to support the fellowship it had founded in 1888, and that the chairman for many years of the National Committee on Fellowships, Mrs. Helmer, was an active member of the Branch.

The meetings were naturally held in Chicago, but in 1897 the Branch held its annual meeting at Northwestern University. In 1898 it met "at the usual time and place." The records for 1899 are missing, but beginning in 1900, the annual meetings were held either at Northwestern University or at the University of Chicago. For many years the women of the graduating classes of the neighboring universities have been guests of the Branch at a spring meeting.

Another noticeable feature during a long series of years was the counsel and active interest freely given by a group of notable women, Jane Addams, Julia C. Lathrop, and Florence Kelley, a record which is probably unparalleled in any other Branch. In the records of the first annual meeting, held November 3, 1889, appears for the first time the name of Miss Jane Addams. "A committee of three ladies was appointed to communicate with Miss Addams and ask in what way the Association could be of assistance to her." In February, 1890, this committee reported that Miss Addams wished a resident alumna to assist in her work. In May Miss Addams was present by invitation and "gave an exhaustive account of her work with Miss Starr with the poor people in South Halsted Street." In November, 1890, it was proposed that the Branch should support a resident, but it was not until February, 1893, that formal action was taken, and in March, 1893, Miss Julia C. Lathrop was appointed as the Hull House fellow. Miss Jeannette C. Welch held the fellowship for the year 1893-4.

During the first winter the Branch had a number of papers presented on different phases of a subject which went under the general term, "Americana," and study classes were formed to take up different special topics. The records indicate that some very learned papers were presented. Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, President of the A. C. A., was present at the meeting in February, 1890, and as usual contributed greatly to the significance of the meeting.

In April, 1890, Miss Emily F. Wheeler gave a paper on Women in College Instruction, in which she called attention to the fact that discrimination against women existed even

in State institutions and that only subordinate appointments on the faculties were given to women. The years which have passed have not brought about any very signal change in the conditions, but it was significant that at the same meeting Mrs. Helmer urged the support of the fellowships and in this way strengthened the movement which for many years she led to unite college women for the promotion of high scholarship.

In June, 1890, an Authors' Reading was proposed, but it was not until March 7, 1891, that it took place—the first Authors' Reading to occur in Chicago. The sum of \$459.64 was netted towards the fellowship funds.

In October, 1890, the A. C. A. held its annual meeting in Chicago and was entertained by the Chicago Branch, as it was on several occasions in later years, viz., 1893, 1899, 1906, 1913 (Council), 1916 (Council).

In February, 1891, an inquiry was made in the Branch as to the reasons why so few graduates from the city high schools attended college. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Harriet T. Brainard an investigation was made concerning the actual conditions in the Chicago schools. There was abundant evidence that measures should be taken to interest the students in carrying on their studies. Active steps, however, were not taken in this direction until the spring of 1896, when 150 high school girls from the senior classes attended a special meeting of the Branch. This was the first of a series of meetings conducted annually through the year 1907. During the later years the guests were the juniors rather than the seniors. The special features of these meetings were exhibits from the different colleges of the Association, addresses descriptive of college life and its subsequent interests and opportunities, singing of college songs, serving of refreshments and the opportunity for the older and younger women to become personally acquainted. These meetings were abandoned when the numbers became too large to maintain the personal quality, and as a substitute the Branch carried on for a series of years a system of sending out representatives to the different public and private high schools to give addresses to the graduating girls, and also invited the senior class of women of the neighboring colleges to be guests at a meeting in the spring.

In November, 1891, appears the first record in regard to the World's Columbian Exposition, which, from that time for two or three years, was destined to prove a very absorbing interest in the Branch. Mrs. Potter Palmer personally appealed to the members of the Branch for their interest and support in securing proper representation of the scientific work of women and general attendance at the educational congresses. Mrs. Rho Fisk Zueblin became chairman of a committee to co-operate in developing the system of Columbian guides. Two members of the Branch, Mrs. Mary Whitney Chapin and Mrs. Harriet Tilden Brainard, were chairmen respectively of the Committees on Exhibition and Headquarters and on Representation of the Higher Education of Women at the World's Fair Congresses. The members of the Branch assumed a large part of the responsibility of caring for the national headquarters in the Woman's Building and of explaining the exhibit. It was fitting that for a time the Branch should become in 1897 the custodian of the medal and diploma awarded the A. C. A. by the authorities of the Exposition.

Arrangements were made in March, 1892, for a series of lectures on Domestic Science by Prof. Lucy M. Salmon, the proceeds of which went to the fellowship fund. In April the suggestion appears for the first time that a room be taken to be used by all the College Associations. A lecture for the fellowship fund was also given by Mrs. Alice F. Palmer on "The Influence of College Education Upon Our Homes." This lecture netted \$180.77.

It is interesting to note that in April, 1893, an address was given on the Significance of the Recent Opening of Graduate Courses of Study to Women at Yale University, The University of Pennsylvania and Brown University, by Prof. William Gardner Hale, of the University of Chicago, while in the following January Mrs. T. J. Lawrence, the wife of a Professor at Cambridge University, England, gave an address on "The Possible Union of Womanliness and Intellectuality Under College Influences." The year 1893-1894 was particularly significant for many reasons. The University of Chicago had graduated its first class and the University was from that time on a source of strength in maintaining and increasing the membership of the Branch.

In December, 1893, Mrs. Florence Kelley of Hull House,

chief inspector of factories in the State of Illinois, spoke on the "Formation of a Purchasers' League to Protect Women and Children." A committee of three was appointed to confer with other committees in regard to the formation of such a league. The records show little of what action was taken until 1897, when, under the leadership of Mrs. Jane E. Smoot, the work organized by the joint committee was developed, and on December 18th the provisions of a constitution for the Illinois Consumers' League were presented and the Branch expressed its approval of the formation of such a League. It was not, however, until 1898, that the Branch ceased as an organization to have any official responsibility for the League.

In the same winter, 1893-4, visitation of the public schools by members of the Branch was organized. Miss Julia C. Lathrop, of the Illinois State Board of Charities, directed the interest of the Branch to the need of giving intelligent concern to the State Institutions.

In April, 1894, attention was called by Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, chairman of the Committee on School Visitation, to the need of arousing public opinion to the importance of securing appointments to the Board of Education without regard to partisan politics. It was moved that the Committee be instructed to draw up a memorial addressed to the Mayor, who made the appointments to the Board of Education, this memorial to be presented to the Association and then made public. The motion, however, was lost by a vote of 6 to 10. This seems to be the first record of any attempt to use the influence of the Branch upon public officers in educational matters. The later history of the Branch shows that the members soon outgrew the timidity which was shown on this first occasion. Indeed, in the following November there is a minute that a committee of three was "appointed to frame a petition to the local senators and representatives," but there is no record to indicate the import of the petition. The following is a partial record of official actions taken by the Branch in regard to legislative and executive measures:

January, 1896. Protest sent to the Board of Education against the proposed reduction of salaries of teachers in the public schools.

April, 1898. The Education Commission of Chicago urged to provide manual training and household economy for girls.

December, 1898. Endorsement of the action of the Mayor in

supporting the contention of Superintendent Andrews that the Superintendent of Schools should have the initiative in all matters relating to the status of teachers. Petition to the Board of Education under all circumstances to support the Superintendent in the exercise of this right.

April, 1899. Mayor urged to appoint men and women as members of the Board of Education, with special reference to their willingness to rid the teaching force of incompetent persons.

January, 1901. Governor Yates asked to reappoint Mrs. Florence Kelley as State Factory Inspector.

March, 1902. Board of Education requested to retain kindergartens. Public Library Board asked to establish a Children's Reading Room.

May, 1902. University of Chicago urged to continue its system of co-instruction.

January, 1905. Endorsement of proposed bill to create the Illinois Library Extension Board.

January, 1907. City Council requested to make an appropriation for medical inspectors and trained nurses in the public schools.

January, 1908. Board of Education requested to increase the number of truant officers.

January, 1908. Endorsement of proposed work of the Educational Commission of Illinois and petition to the Legislature to increase its appropriation and place a woman upon it.

November, 1908. Chicago Board of Education requested to provide as complete courses in industrial arts for the girls in the high schools as it has for the boys, to establish co-educational technical high schools and to extend the courses in cooking and sewing to all high schools.

December, 1908. Endorsement of bill to establish a National Children's Bureau.

January, 1909. Endorsement of suppression of high school fraternities.

February, 1909. Endorsement of State Library Bill.

March, 1909. Endorsement of bills providing for a State Board of Education, the certificate plan and township organization of schools.

April, 1909. Approval of bill providing for a State Art Commission.

December, 1909. Petition for the retention of school nurses.

March, 1911. Endorsement of bills raising age of child street vendors, excluding children from the stage, increasing the library taxation fund and raising the age of admission to the parental school.

February, 1910. Endorsement of bill to establish a Commission for Improving the Condition of the Adult Blind in their Homes.

April, 1911. Endorsement of resolutions presented by the College Women's Industrial Committee of Illinois.

June, 1911. Endorsement of proposed legislation in behalf of epileptics.

February, 1912. Endorsement of arbitration treaties, Children's Bureau, and ordinance regulating street trading by children.

April, 1913. Mayor requested to appoint three women to the Board of Education.

July 26, 1913. Resolution protesting against the resignation of Mrs. Ella Flagg Young as Superintendent of Schools.

April, 1914. Endorsement of action looking to "replacement of the system of war by the system of law."

November, 1914. Disapproval of legislative bill providing for a "dual system of education."

February, 1915. Endorsement of Federal Child Labor Bill.

April, 1915. Endorsement of State Library bill, Teachers' Pension bill, Child Labor bill, Injunction and Abatement bill.

November, 1916. Endorsement of establishment of international agreement that wages paid should be independent of sex.

In 1895 a Public School Committee was organized and carried on for several years a series of diversified activities in behalf of the schools. In February, 1896, Miss Marion Talbot proposed, as a comparatively new and most promising field for investigation, the practical and theoretical study of Home Economics in colleges for women. Following this, Miss Hannah Belle Clark presented to the Branch a very full description of the status of manual training in American city schools and a petition urging the extension of instruction in manual training and household economy was sent to the Education Commission. In June, 1897, it was decided to develop the Branch into departments for the consideration of the public schools. Mrs. Emma Gilbert Shorey served as chairman and a very interesting and profitable series of meetings followed. In October, 1897, Mrs. Martha H. MacLeish was appointed chairman of the Committee on Art in the Public Schools, which later co-operated actively with the Public School Art Society. Mrs. Adele S. Hall succeeded as chairman. In the following May the Committee reported that through the efforts of the Branch six pictures had been hung in the Fallon School. In April, 1898, Mrs. Florence Kelley was appointed delegate on parental schools to meet the Committee on Compulsory Education. In March, 1898, through the initiative of Miss Mary E. McDowell, the movement in behalf of Vacation Schools received the support of the Branch and for several years was one of its most important activities. Both financial help and personal service were given. The chairman of the Parental School Com-

mittee, Miss Esther Witkowsky, reported in October, 1898, that the Joint Committee of Women's Clubs had found it impossible to secure the enforcement of the compulsory education laws in the case of delinquent and unmanageable children and had decided that a truant school was necessary. This Committee undertook the passage of the necessary legislation and the ultimate outcome was the passage of a bill in April, 1899, making it obligatory on the city of Chicago to construct and maintain such a school. Later the legislation was enacted which established the first Juvenile Court in the United States.

The Cook County League of Women's Clubs was organized in 1898 and the Branch decided in December to join the League and send delegates who would serve on the education committee. For many years the chairmanship of this committee was held by the delegate from the Chicago Branch and very many important educational plans fostered by the different women's organizations of the committee were in this way quite effectively directed by the Collegiate Alumnae.

During the year 1898-99 the Branch took an active part in the campaign to control the right to confer degrees. A bill to wipe out the so-called "diploma mills" of Illinois, though supported by many of the most influential educators and professional men of the State, was buried by a decisive vote.

In November, 1899, Mrs. M. W. Sikes, as chairman of the Committee on Educational Legislation, announced that it was the plan of the Committee to collect information for the Branch, to watch the working of the new rules of Superintendent of Schools Andrews, to co-operate in every possible way with the Committee of One Hundred, to aid the movement to extend compulsory education to the entire year, to give special attention to the composition of the Board of Education, to observe institutions of the state at large, educational, penal, and reformatory, and to continue to give attention to the progress of bills regulating institutions conferring degrees.

The Branch chose for its general topic during the year 1899-1900 the New Education in Theory and Practice, and received detailed reports from its committees on education,

legislation, educational information, and physicians' work in the schools.

In January, 1900, the Branch started an inquiry as to the instruction in sociology and economics offered by the colleges of the Association, the inquiry having special reference to opportunities offered for the practical study of pauperism, delinquency, and other forms of human wastage, as presented to the Branch by Miss Julia C. Lathrop, a member of the State Board of Charities. This movement culminated in 1904 in the publication of a leaflet prepared by a committee of which Mrs. Alice Peloubet-Norton was chairman. It included a statement of preparatory professional courses offered by the colleges belonging to the A. C. A., together with a list of the opportunities offered women in Chicago for public and private social service.

In the spring of 1900 a committee was organized for the study of resolutions upon college entrance requirements which had been passed recently by a committee of the National Education Association. A very careful study was made by Miss Sarah B. Tunnicliff of the extent to which the colleges of the State of Illinois and the public and private schools of the city of Chicago conform to the recommendations outlined. This information was published in tabulated form and given wide distribution.

A suggestion for co-operation between the Collegiate Alumnae and the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs was made in May, 1900, by Mrs. Louise B. Stanwood. This suggestion led to very helpful and friendly relations with the State Federation, although no formal connection was ever made.

In 1900-01 a committee, of which Mrs. Madeline Wallin Sikes was the chairman, worked in aid of several educational bills which were before the legislature, to increase school privileges, to provide a State appropriation for school libraries, to consolidate the rural schools and to build a State Home for delinquent boys. The last named bill became a law while the others failed, two to pass the legislature, the third by the Governor's veto. The chief work of the Committee was the preparation of a summary of laws relating to compulsory education and child labor in the United States. The summary was complete and authoritative. It later proved to be of great value as a missionary document in connection

with the work of the Consumers' Leagues. It was distributed among the Woman's Clubs of Illinois and sent to the President of every State Federation of Clubs and rendered service in securing better legislation bearing on compulsory education and child labor, two subjects which are closely interdependent. Notwithstanding strong opposition, both bills later became laws. The Compulsory Education law, as amended, increased required attendance from sixteen weeks to the full school term and effectually imposed penalties for guardians neglecting this duty. This legislation advanced Illinois from a low to a high educational rank among the States. The service rendered by the Branch under the direction of Mrs. Sikes was an important factor in securing this result.

Child study was a subject taken up in 1901, under the direction of Mrs. Helen T. Catterall. This work was carried on chiefly through individual studies and observations of children made by mothers and teachers.

The Branch put itself on record in December, 1901, as "opposed to discriminations as to salary of school teachers on the basis of sex, believing in equal pay for equal work." This action led to correspondence with the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools and was the beginning of a movement which the Branch has fostered on every possible occasion.

The Branch offered in January, 1902, to co-operate with the Commission on Accredited Schools of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in an attempt to formulate a standard unit of instruction and to seek a method by which saving of time in the period devoted to preparatory and college work might be secured. Miss Marion Talbot of the Branch had been made a member of this Commission and this brought the Branch into active co-operation with it.

Following the commendable example of the Boston Branch a Committee on the Sanitary Conditions of the Public Schools was formed in 1901. An investigation was made in 1902, according to careful plans drawn up by the Chairman, Mrs. C. M. Hill. The questions prepared by the Boston Branch were used, the answers made by the principals and teachers being purely voluntary. The questions were found ill adapted to Chicago conditions and the answers

were so meager and lacking in information that the tabulation of the blanks kindly made by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction was unsatisfactory. It is hoped, however, that the experience gained in this effort will be utilized at some future time.

Active aid was given in 1902 to the Home Economics Committee of the Boston Branch in securing information concerning domestic service and the cost of living.

The meeting of January, 1902, was devoted to the work of the Committee on Entrance Requirements. Miss Marion Talbot, chairman, spoke on the problems involved and read letters from several members of the Commission on Graduate Schools recently established by the North Central Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools. Professor Harry Pratt Judson, President of the Commission, and Mr. George N. Carman, Secretary of the Commission, gave interesting addresses.

The Mary L. Stone Home Economics Exhibit was shown for a week in the rooms of the Chicago Women's Club in May, 1903, under the direction of the Chicago Branch and received much notice from the large number of guests who were invited to inspect it.

In 1903-4 the Committee on Education of the League of Cook County Clubs undertook to co-operate with the department of Compulsory Education of the Chicago Board of Education, by appointing voluntary agents in different parts of the city, specially connected with settlements, who reported cases of truancy which had been overlooked by the school authorities. This was done with the full consent of the Department of Compulsory Education and upon blanks prepared for the purpose of the Department. Besides correcting cases of truancy, the knowledge of this watchfulness on the part of the Women's Clubs acted as a wholesome stimulus to the Department of Compulsory Education. The organization and execution of this plan was in the hands of the Collegiate Alumnae delegates to the League, Mrs. Adele Somers Hall and Miss Angeline Loesch.

In accordance with the provisions of the revised constitution of the National Association the Branch elected in 1904 a delegate to serve to represent the Branch in the Na-

tional Council. Miss Marion Talbot was elected to serve until October 1st, 1908.

A committee was appointed in April, 1904, to study the relations between the public library and the public schools in Chicago. This step led to State wide investigation under the direction of Mrs. Charlotte Sibley Hilton and to co-operation with the Library Committee of the State Federation of Women's Clubs in an attempt to secure a state library commission. The Committee distributed 2,000 copies of a statement concerning library facilities in other states compiled especially for this work by Mrs. Annie Mead Fertig, a member of the Branch.

In March, 1905, the Branch assumed active responsibility in the Juvenile Court Committee and appointed as its delegate Miss S. P. Breckinridge. The proposal brought forward in 1905 looking toward a new city charter held the attention of the Branch for several months. Special study was given to its proposed educational provisions. The Branch was honored in 1905 by having one of its members, Miss Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, elected general secretary of the National Association.

The terrible disaster in California in 1906 necessitated giving up the proposed annual meeting of the General Association in San Francisco and in the breach the Chicago Branch offered its hospitality. It also provided funds to meet the traveling expenses of a delegate from the California Branch.

During 1906-7 committees were organized on Home Economics, on the Physical Welfare of Public School Children, and to co-operate with the Exhibition Committee of the Municipal Art League. The Committee on Correspondence kept in touch with 22 branches. The Committee on Educational Information collected information from the colleges holding membership in the Association as to their general advance in endowment, equipment, and new courses of study, as well as concerning the general progress of higher education among women. The Committee on Child-Study carried on individual work, according to the syllabi prepared by Dr. Millicent Shinn. The Committee on Educational Legislation attempted to inform the Association of local educational events and to arouse interest in pending legislation on educational topics. Under the influence of this Commit-

tee the Association endorsed two bills, one providing for the employment of a commission to revise and codify the school laws of the state, the other requiring children under sixteen to be either in school or at work. Both attempts were successful. The Committee on the Hamline School supplied voluntary workers and financial support towards the experiment of using one of the public school buildings as a social center. The Committee on the Juvenile Court consisted of 22 members who were actively engaged in taking charge of one or more cases under the jurisdiction of the court. Under the direction of the Committee on Vacation Schools a musical entertainment was given to raise money for this purpose. The Committee on the Physical Welfare of Public-School Children co-operated in securing the appointment of 150 special medical inspectors and 10 nurses in the Chicago Public Schools, with the result that absences in the schools where nurses were employed were greatly reduced. The Branch continued to be represented in the League of Cook County Clubs, whose educational division directed its attention to the general problem of truancy, with special reference to the establishment of an interchangeable system of transfers between the public and parochial schools.

In November, 1907, the custom was introduced of having a luncheon in connection with the regular monthly meeting. Various modifications in the administration of this function have been made from time to time, but the custom has continued to the present and has proved a source of pleasure and profit to the members who have been able to avail themselves of the privilege.

The Library Committee, under the direction of Miss Louise Roth carried on a series of story hours for children at the Chicago Public Library during March and April, 1908. This undertaking was soon merged in a general movement of the Women's Clubs and as a result a Story Hour Association was formed whose work the Branch assisted in supporting.

In 1907-8 the Branch continued the following committees: Child Study, Correspondence, Education Information, Education Legislation, Hospitality, Library, Story Hour, Membership, Physical Welfare of Public School Children, Social Service, Vocation School, Home Economics.

From 1902 to 1909 Miss Mary F. Willard served as treasurer of the Branch. During the whole time her aged father collected the dues, paid the bills, and kept the accounts and the treasurer's reports which are on file and are a model in spite of the tremulous handwriting. The Branch grew to have a sincere affection for their co-worker and the records bear an expression of their appreciation. Dr. Willard died four years after his service terminated, at the age of 91 years.

In 1909-10 the Committee on Educational Legislation reported interest taken in bills concerning equal franchise for women and to establish a commission for improving the condition of the adult blind in their homes.

To Miss Sarah B. Tunncliffe should be given the credit of starting the first Committee of Social Service in September, 1908. Several members had children from the Juvenile Court paroled to them; others assisted Mr. Roe in his fight against the white slave traffic; one went as a delegate to the Hamline School.

In June, 1910, the chairmanship passed to Miss Lea D. Taylor, who decided to make the topic, "The Public Schools as Social Centers," the special study of the committee and a joint committee with representatives from the various departments of the Chicago Woman's Club and the Women's City Club was formed. During 1910-11 and 1911-12 the committee held profitable and interesting conferences.

During Miss Taylor's absence in Europe in 1911-12, Mrs. S. H. Price was chairman of the Committee. Upon Miss Taylor's return it was decided to have two committees, Miss Taylor remaining as chairman of the Social Service Committee and Mrs. Price becoming chairman of the group in charge of other organized forms of social service lines, viz., United Charities, Legal Aid Society, Jewish Home Finding Society, etc. A sub-committee was formed to investigate the subsequent records of the children who had been pupils in the various sub-normal rooms of the city schools.

In 1913-14 the Program Committee having assigned a meeting to each of the Committees, Miss Taylor secured Mr. William Wirt, who spoke on the Gary system of education, and Mrs. Squire, who had become chairman of the Social Service Committee, secured Mr. Samuel B. Allison, Superin-

tendent of Special Instruction, to speak on "The Education of Backward Children in Chicago," and she also read a paper herself on the result of the investigation on sub-normal children.

In November, 1914, Miss Margaret Friend, chairman of the Committee on Volunteer Service of the National A. C. A., spoke on the importance of interesting young women graduates in social service work and of having the A. C. A. serve as a clearing house for them. Mrs. Squire, as chairman of the Social Service Committee, assumed this responsibility and gradually built up the Bureau of Social Service, which was composed of delegates from the A. C. A., the Chicago Woman's Club, and various alumnae clubs, each delegate paying two dollars. The use of a room rent free was given by Miss Ellen Holt and the A. C. A. appropriated small sums from time to time for incidental expenses. More than eighty volunteers were placed in widely different lines—English to a class of Polish women at Michael Reese Hospital, sewing to little girls living near the South Chicago Steel Mills.

When the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense organized the Department of Home Charities, efficiency demanded the union of these two organizations, covering the same ground and, accordingly in the fall of 1917, workers, funds, and plans were merged in the Women's Committee and the work of the Social Service Committee or Bureau of the A. C. A. came to an end after nearly ten years of life.

In October, 1910, Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews, Secretary of the International Peace Conference, spoke on "Internationalism." Addresses on new vocations and professions for women were made. In 1910 the Branch undertook new work in connection with the Woman's City Club and the Chicago Woman's Club consisting of an investigation of industrial training for girls, especially in regard to the young girl between 14 and 16 years, not affected by the Compulsory Education Bill of Illinois. There were about 4,000 of these girls in Chicago, all of whom were practically unprepared to earn a livelihood. In April, 1911, the Branch made a contribution toward paying the services of Miss Anne S. Davis as investigator for the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy in securing data to be used in promoting voca-

tional guidance of girls from 14 to 16 years of age. Later a joint committee from the Branch, the Chicago Woman's Club and the Woman's City Club was formed to maintain and develop this work. The delegate from the Branch was Miss Katherine E. Dopp. The scope of the work gradually broadened and enlisted the support of other organizations and its progress was frequently reported to the Branch, and various aspects of the subject discussed by experts in vocational guidance. This work was later taken over by the Board of Education as the Vocational Education Bureau.

In 1911-12 the membership reached 300. The most important work which was undertaken was co-operation with other college women in the establishment of an intercollegiate bureau of occupations for trained women workers. This movement which was originally suggested by the Philadelphia Branch in March, 1902, was directed on behalf of the Branch by a Committee whose chairman was Mrs. Julia W. Nicholson. A great part of its success was due to the untiring efforts of the President, Miss Mary Ross Potter. In connection with this undertaking Mrs. Adele Somers Hall secured statistics concerning vocational opportunities for college women.

The more or less desultory program of social topics which occupied the winter of 1911-12 led naturally the next winter to a carefully arranged series of addresses by prominent social workers of the city. These were supplemented by reports from groups of members who had assumed the responsibility of visiting and becoming acquainted with the work of different social agencies. One practical outcome followed some time later when, through the initiative of the Branch, a group of senior women at the University of Chicago organized and conducted weekly classes in gymnastics and folk dancing at the State Industrial School for Girls. This work was kept up for two years or until the School was able to make provision for such training through its own staff.

In the summer of 1913 the extension of the franchise to women of Illinois was enacted and its effect on the Branch was immediately seen in the formation of a civics class and in other methods of preparation for the new duties of citizenship.

The Branch has sent regular delegates to a considerable number of organizations, including the following:

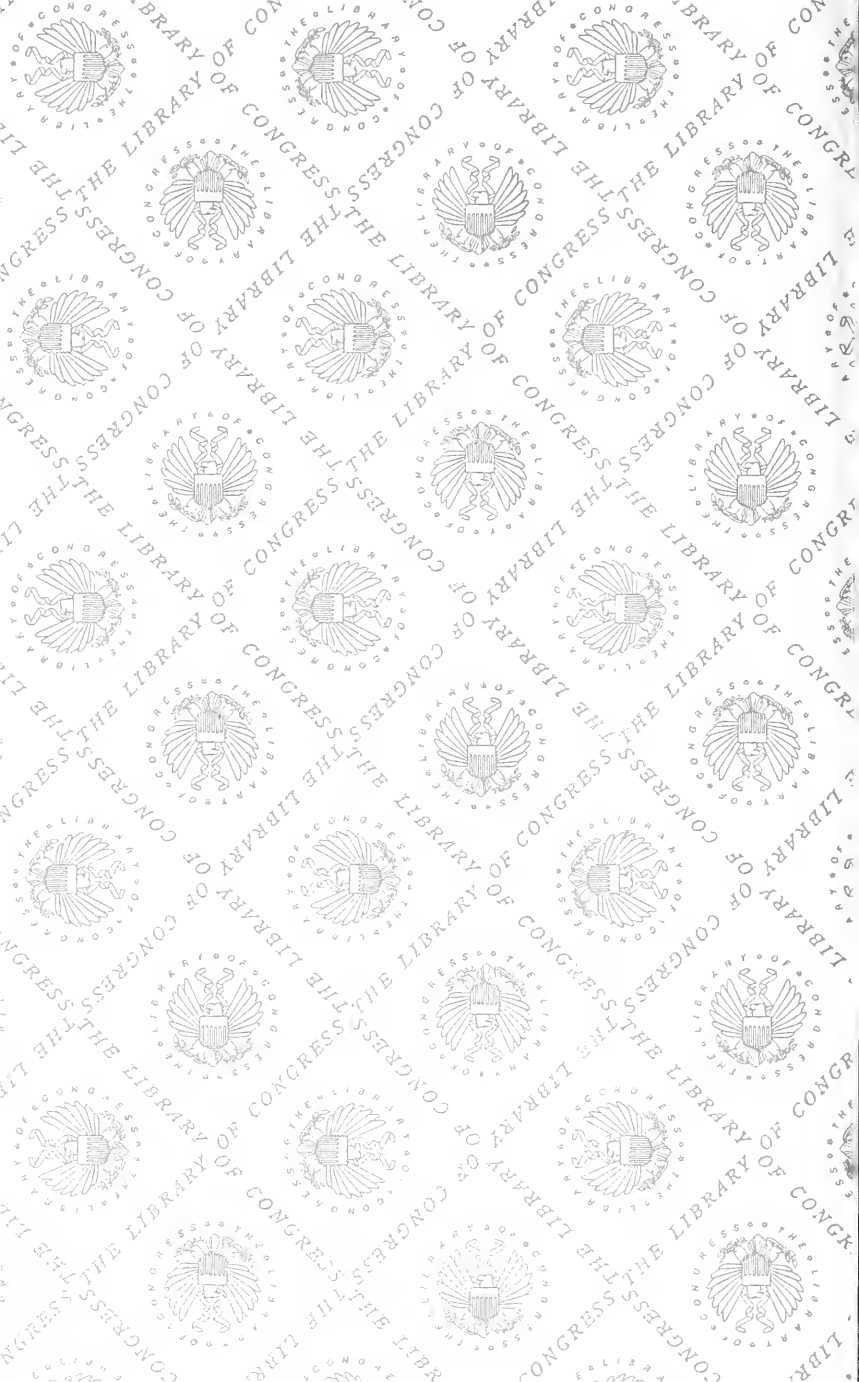
Consumers' League.
League of Cook County Clubs.
Vacation School Committee.
School Extension Society.
Story Hour Association.
Daughters of the American Revolution.
Education Commission of the Civic Federation.
Juvenile Reform Conference.
Exhibition Committee of Municipal Art League.
Chicago Health League.
Drama League of America.
Central Committee on Municipal Suffrage.
Juvenile Protective League.
College Women's Industrial Committee of Illinois.
The Joint Committee of Vocational Supervision.
International Congress of School Hygiene in London.
Intercollegiate Bureau of Occupations.
Conference of Federal Employment Bureau.
Illinois Woman's Legislative Congress.

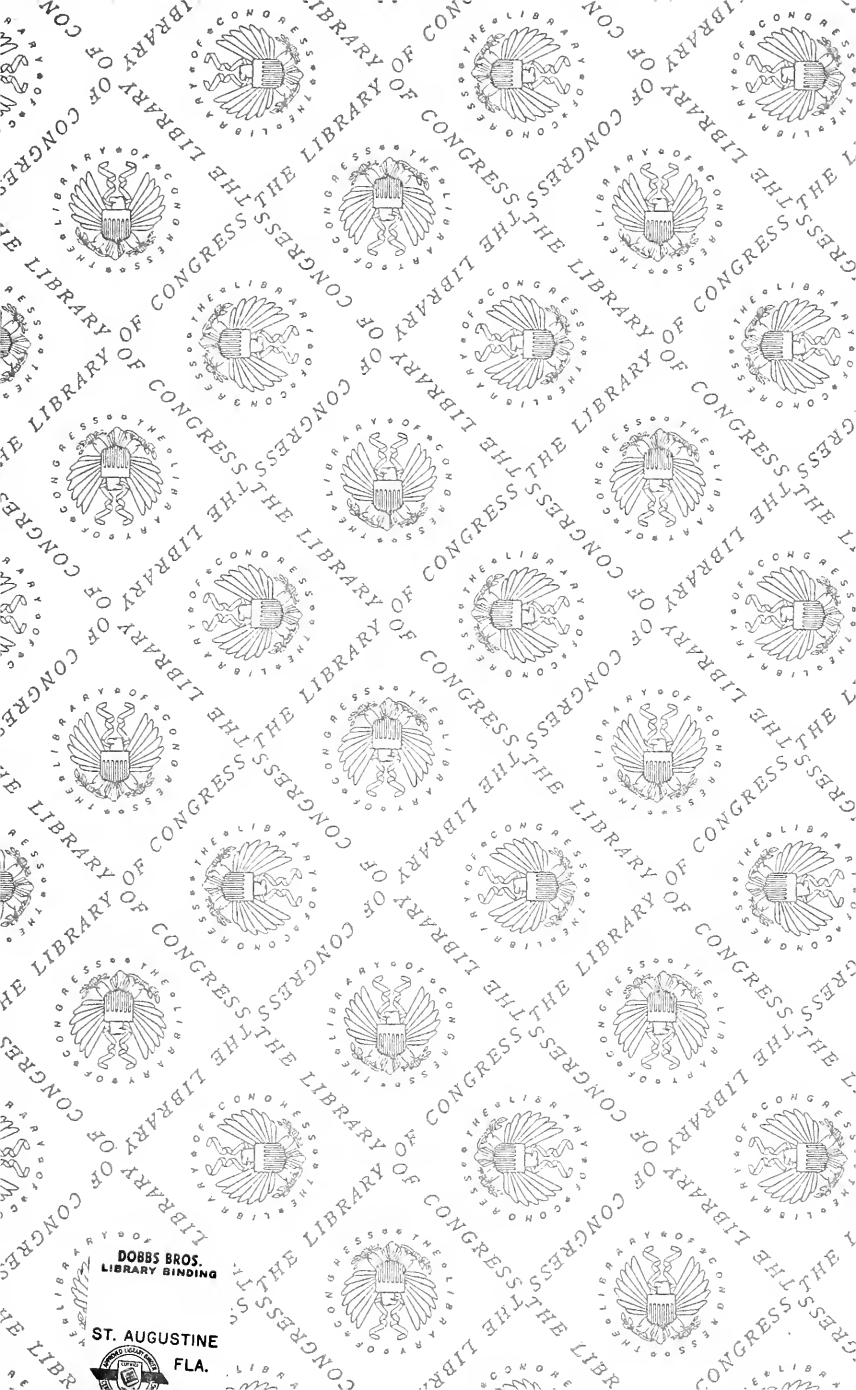
In several cases a committee of the Branch was the nucleus of the organization, which later was enlarged and became independent. In all cases of co-operation there is no question that the endorsement of the Branch and the active and intelligent service of its delegates were of great value.

Such, in brief, is the record of achievements of a little band of women united by a common purpose. One of the most striking features is the rapidity with which new ventures in education, requiring enterprise and even boldness, became matters of course in educational procedure. This should serve as ground for encouragement to those who believe that there is yet a large work for the Branch to accomplish, even though the way may not seem easy or clear. The record is necessarily incomplete in one important respect. By its very nature it can give no adequate account of the many friendships formed by those who worked together. The close personal ties, based on a sympathetic sharing in a common interest, may be said truly to be among the most prized of the results of these years of co-operative effort in behalf of the education of women.

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